10th December 1923]

*A.*—The question of a programme of railway construction in the Presidency, including district board lines, has been under discussion with the Railway Board for a considerable time and it is hoped that a decision will shortly be made.

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar :—" Sir, the decision is expected to be made shortly. May I have a little more precise information as regards the probable time ? "

The hon. Mr. A. R. Knapp :—" The decision referred to is of the Railway Board and the Government of India. I do not know how long it will take."

*Duties of Secretary to Government (Railways) and Inspector of Railways.*

14 *Q.*—Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state what the duties are of—

(i) the Secretary to Railways, Public Works Department ; and

(ii) the Government Inspector of Railways ; and whether they contemplate the abolition of either of the posts ; and if so, which of them ?

*A.*—(i) The Senior Government Inspector of Railways, Madras, who is also the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department (Railways), assists Government in his latter capacity in disposing of all references to the Government of Madras on Railway matters. A proposal to abolish this post of Secretary to Government, Public Works Department (Railways), is under the consideration of the Government.

(ii) The Government Inspector of Railways is under the direct control of the Railway Board and not subordinate to the Local Government.

III

COMMUNICATION TO THE COUNCIL.

The Secretary laid on the table a copy of the order made by the hon. the President of the Madras Legislative Council under Standing Order No. 15 on the 6th December 1923. *

IV

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

The hon. the President :—" I have to inform the House that the following members have been elected as members of the Finance Committee at the election held on the 29th November 1923 :—

| | |
|---|---|
| Mr. A. Ramaswami Mudaliyar. | Mr. C. Nicholson. |
| Janab Muhammad Yahya Ali Sahib. | Rai Bahadur Sir K. Venkatareddi Nayudu, *Kt.* |
| Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar. | Dr. P. Subbarayan." |

* Printed as Appendix A on page 237 infra.